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Gehlen Faces Prosecution

The West German press reports that Reinhard Gehlen, former President of the Federal Intelligence Service (BND) has been charged with receiving a huge bribe, an offence which carries a penalty of five years hard labour.

A complaint filed with the public prosecutor's office in Munich charges that when he was at the head of the BND, Gehlen received from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency a bribe of 250,000 marks, with which he acquired the luxury villa in Berg am Starnberger See in Bavaria where he now lives. The evidence submitted includes documents from the land registry office and the testimony of seven witnesses. The complaint mentions as a witness the present CIA director Richard Helms.

That Gehlen had bought his villa with money received from the CIA was first reported by the Hamburg weekly *Der Spiegel* in its issue No. 12 for 1971. But it took more than a year for the charges against Adenauer's one-time "favourite" to be filed with the prosecutor's office.

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